

28. The medical device of Claim 27 wherein said coating is applied in the form of a waffle pattern, stripe pattern or a pattern having circular perforations.
29. The medical device of Claim 1 wherein said coating is applied in a waffle pattern, stripe pattern or a pattern having circular perforations.

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Remarks

*Rejections*

**35 U.S.C. §102**

Claims 1-6 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Porter et al.

Applicant disagrees and traverses the rejection. Porter et al. describes a continuous coating on a discontinuous substrate, a stent. At col. 5, lines 27-32, the coating is described:

To reduce the risk of toxicity from the curable material prior to curing, the stent can further include a layer of a biocompatible material which *encapsulates* the curable fiber composite and serves as a *barrier* between the stent and any circulating blood, and between the stent and the lumen walls.

The terms "*encapsulates*" and "*barrier*" clearly indicate that the coating is continuous on the substrate.

Applicants on the other hand, both describe and claim a coating which is noncontinuous. The inventions are not the same as required under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 and 8 as being anticipated by Porter et al.

Claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

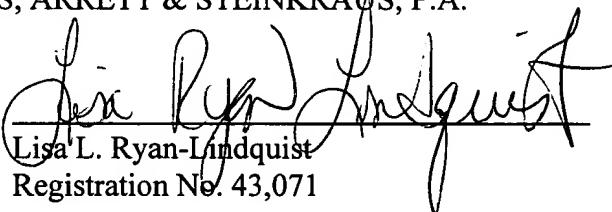
**CONCLUSION**

Applicant has addressed any issues presented by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and an early allowance of the claims as presented.

Respectfully submitted,

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